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ABSTRACT

The Interagency Panel on Early Childhood Research and Development has prepared a statement of the research objectives for each major agency (Office of Child Development, National Institute of Health, Social and Rehabilitation Service, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Office of Education), and listed the research objectives of the research groups within each agency for FY 72. A number of the goals are directly related to the legislation authorizing early childhood research quoted in "Legislative Mandates for Early Childhood Research." The entire list of goals for each agency serves to define the overall agency mission as well as to indicate some plausible directions for future research. The statements of research objectives demonstrate to some extent the relationship between research and broad agency objectives. A condensed listing of the priorities for early childhood research designated by the Interagency Panel is attached. (CS)

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BROAD AGENCY GOALS AND AGENCY RESEARCH OBJECTIVES FOR FY 72

Prepared for the Interagency Panel
on Early Childhood Research and Development

by

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Overview

This paper has two main parts: statements of broad FY 1972 objectives for each major agency and statements of the research objectives of the research groups within each agency.

The broad operational planning goals are prepared by each agency for the Office of the Secretary. A number of the goals can be seen to be directly related to the legislation authorizing early childhood research quoted in Legislative Mandates for Early Childhood Research. The entire list of goals for each agency serves to give a concrete picture of the overall agency mission as well as indicating some plausible directions for future research. The statements of research objectives demonstrate to some extent the relationship between research and broad agency objectives.

The report An Analysis of the Processes of Establishing Research Priorities, prepared for the Panel, describes the process through which goals and objectives become research programs and projects and how research findings are utilized in making decisions about research goals and policies.

A condensed listing of the priorities for early childhood research, designated by the Interagency Panel, is attached. Relationships between this set of priorities and agency research objectives may be studied in the near future.

Agency Goals for FY 1972

Office of Child Development
Goals for FY 1972

1. Develop a plan for implementation of H.R.I. The plan will include a process for the creation and certification of 575,000 day care slots required by the Bill.

2. Develop (1) a model set of codes for licensing of day care facilities in the areas of fire safety, zoning, building, health and sanitation; (2) a model statute of day care licensing; and (3) a model process for administering a day care licensing program.

3. Have ready for dissemination eight day care handbooks, in a series of 11, incorporating the ideas of over 100 experts and dealing with the following subjects: A Statement of Principles; Serving Infants; Serving the Pre-School Child; Serving the School Age Child; Staff Training; Serving the Handicapped Child; Serving Children in Family Day Care Homes; Administration; Health; Federal Inter-agency Day Care Requirements; and Day Care Facilities.

4. Improve the quality of services available to Head Start children and, in certain centers, to increase the number of children served without sacrificing program quality.

5. Create approximately 15 home-centered programs which will be operated as adjuncts to existing Head Start Centers and involve approximately 2,500 children. These programs will emphasize the development of the family's ability to provide continuing developmental experiences for the pre-school child.

6. Establish six local area child advocacy systems in conjunction with Parent and Child Centers to do the following, among other things: Provide preliminary recommendations to the Secretary regarding child advocacy legislation, organization of service delivery systems, patterns of service utilization, and problem areas relating to the delivery of services to children.

7. Introduce the recently developed Health Education Curriculum to approximately 100,000 children in 200 community Head Start programs, and evaluate the 29 summer Head Start projects funded in 1971; determine the most effective models; decide by March 1, 1972, whether or not to replicate those models in other communities; and if the decision is positive, develop and implement a plan to expand the program.

8. Prepare a plan by December, 1971 which will designate the 1970 White House Conference on Children (WHCC) recommendations to be implemented and identify the specific strategy to be employed and by March 1, 1972, prepare a report describing conference follow-up actions which will be sent by the President to conference participants.

National Institute of Health (NICHD)
Goals for FY 1972

1. Primary-care physician assistants.
Support 30 programs to ensure full enrollment during the fiscal year. Also, increase present enrollment by 40% (300 positions). (Bureau of Health Manpower Education)

2. Increase by 50% the effectiveness of State MEDIHC Agencies in placing returning vets. Raise placement rate from 40% to 60% or about 2,400 positions for the year. (Bureau of Health Manpower Education)

3. Implement new health professions education and nurse training legislation. (Bureau of Health Manpower Education)

4. Develop a national strategy for health manpower education.

5. Population Sciences.
Support research to: (a) develop an array of antifertility methods, (b) evaluate medical effects of current methods, (c) obtain data on population, (d) develop and support population research centers. (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

6. Cancer Conquest Program Planning.
Develop an overall strategic plan for operation by June, 1972. (National Cancer Institute)

7. Sickle Cell Anemia.
(a) determine most effective therapy, (b) develop knowledge overcoming biological problems, (c) evaluate community screening programs, (d) improve public knowledge. (National Heart and Lung Institute)

8. Arteriosclerosis.
Develop new preventative and therapeutic measures particularly for high risk persons. (National Heart and Lung Institute)

9. Pulmonary diseases.
Accelerate development of knowledge and develop means of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. (National Heart and Lung Institute)

10. Regional Medical Library Network.
Improve structure and operation. (National Library of Medicine)

11. EEO
Increase minority group and women membership in middle and upper level positions and improve advancement in lower grade and deadend jobs.

Social and Rehabilitation Service
Goals for FY 1972

1. Separate payments function from services function in the States and develop policies, procedures and regulations to implement HR1.

2. Assist each of the States to identify the need for and to provide the child care and other supportive services needed to achieve the WIN enrollment target in each State and to reach a total of 315,000 cases in fiscal year 1972, and to provide these supportive services for an estimated 150,000 public assistance recipients accepted for service by the State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies during the year; and to develop and organize State agency child care and other supportive services so that these agencies are in a position to provide such services as are required by State and local DoL and vocational rehabilitation agencies in carrying out their responsibilities under the Welfare Reform Act.

3. Implement the vocational rehabilitation aspects of the Welfare Reform Act.

4. Increase the vocational rehabilitation of public assistance recipients.

5. Develop delinquency prevention systems in inner city, suburban and rural communities.

6. Insure State compliance with Federal regulations in public assistance and medical assistance programs.

7. Develop a comprehensive R&D strategy which reflects the highest priority needs of the programs of SRS and its staff offices, the Office of the Secretary, the Regional Offices, and to the extent possible the agencies and organizations - public and private - at the State and local levels.

Health Services and Mental Health Administration
(NIMH and MCHS)
Goals for FY 1972

1. Prevention and treatment of alcoholism.

2. Implement the Emergency Health Personnel Act of 1970 with the assignment of 300 personnel to health deficient communities.

3. Support and develop a limited number of experimental health service delivery systems.

4. Provide primary health centers in urban poverty neighborhoods and remote rural areas.

5. Increase family planning services to 2,200,000 patients.

6. Increase health services to children by:
   (a) expanding children and youth projects to accomodate an additional 20,000 children;
   (b) establishing in six communities a program of assistance designed to identify children affected by lead-based paint poisoning;
   (c) increasing the supply of trained personnel such as midwives, pediatric assistants and other physician assistants by 150;
   (d) providing rubella immunization for 8 million children
   (e) developing five new child advocacy demonstration projects;
   (f) providing mental health services to an additional 28,000 children; and
   (g) intensify efforts to improve and expand resources to combat sickle cell anemia.

7. Provide leadership in the development of health maintenance organizations.

8. Develop standards for occupational safety and assure the implementation of Coal Mine Health Acts.

Office of Education
Goals for FY 1972 and Beyond

1. FY 1972-77 Goals for Career Education

Make available a more comprehensive set of educational choices by developing career education alternatives to the traditional public education system. More specifically, to help alleviate the problem of students leaving school without fields of endeavor for self-support; to improve understandings of, attitudes toward, and preparation for careers; to revitalize education to better expose students at all levels to productive career opportunities in the broader society beyond school. The major thrust of the 5-year objective is to develop promising strategies for improved career education, to establish model career education programs to serve as alternatives to current educational practices, and to modify and refine these models until their success can be demonstrated as measured by career outcomes of students and replicability in other locations. The four strategies being undertaken are school-based, employer-based, home-based, and residential-based/career education.

2. FY 1972-77 Goals for Serving the Disadvantaged

Eliminate education barriers to low-income and disadvantaged youth by supporting changes in the educational system and by providing financial assistance and supportive services to meet the special needs of economically disadvantaged youth. Specifically: 1) at the early childhood, elementary and secondary levels, the primary thrust will be to improve academic performance of disadvantaged to the extent that achievement profiles of low-income students are the same as the achievement profiles of high-income students; and 2) at the post secondary level the primary thrust will be to eliminate inequalities of educational opportunity to the extent that by 1977 students coming from low-income backgrounds will enter post secondary education in the same proportions as students in the two highest income quartiles.

3. FY 1972-77 Goals for Education of the Handicapped

Secure a national commitment to provide specialized training and other essential educational services for handicapped children. To strengthen and enhance the national commitment, the following five subobjectives will be accomplished in FY 1972:

- provide specialized and appropriate educational services to an additional 250,000 handicapped school age children
- sustain and further develop career educational training for 250,000 school children
- train 17,000 new teachers and upgrade the skills of 5,000 experienced teachers who work in special education classrooms; twelve thousand (12,000) regular teachers and 2,000 ancillary

or supportive personnel will be trained with handicapped children in the regular classroom setting

- secure educational programs for 100,000 handicapped pre-school children

- develop a communication program which disseminates information on educational programs for the handicapped

4. FY 1972-77 Goals for the Right to Read Program
Assure that by 1980, 99% of the people in the United States 16 years old and 90% of the people over 16 shall be functionally literate. In FY 1972, begin a systematic improvement in State and local reading instructional systems through the establishment of 120 local reading renewal programs and the design and implementation of an interim information dissemination system.

5. FY 1972-77 Goals for Racial Integration
Achieve equal educational opportunity for all racial, ethnic and cultural minorities. FY 1972 objectives include:

Pupil Desegregation --
(a) The enrollment of minority group children in elementary and secondary schools which have more than 50 percent minorities will be reduced from 67 percent to 47 percent in school year 1972-73.
(b) Assure that at least 70 percent of the funds appropriated for the Emergency School Aid Program will be used to fund projects which result in a reduction of racial isolation which is at least 50 percent of what each district can achieve by fall 1972.

Faculty Retraining for School Desegregation --
To provide advanced training through institutions of higher education and on-site within school systems.

Educational Television --
Develop and test a series of prototype educational television productions of "Sesame Street" quality for marketing in FY 1973, which will assist children in the age bracket 3 to 14 (pre-school through grade 8) to overcome racial, cultural, and ethnic barriers to educational opportunity

6. FY 1972 Goals for Education Revenue Sharing
Prepare guidelines so that upon the passage of legislation, the Office of Education will be in a position to implement education revenue sharing.

7. FY 1972-77 Goals for Innovation
(More information is given for this goal because it is closely related to the concerns of the Panel)

To provide more responsive systems to meet educational needs by promoting alternatives to and pursuing significant improvements and modifications of existing forms of education.

FY 1972 Goals:
Four goals will be pursued in FY 1972: (1) Develop a plan by September 1, 1971 for the establishment of the National Institute of Education by June 1, 1972 which will include a strategy for educational research; (2) Restructure functions and establish by November 1, 1971 an organization in the Office of Education which will focus discretionary funds on the reform of education, its systems and institutions; (3) Develop a plan by December 15, 1971 for the establishment of a foundation for Higher Education by January 1, 1972, and (4) Accomplish through the redirection of continuing projects and the development of new projects to substantially accelerate the installation and use of promising products, practices and processes.

The plan for establishing a National Institute of Education will present a description of an educational research strategy. The plan will include steps for identifying and analyzing problem areas of education and for establishing criteria for selecting problems for research activities. The plan will include systematic cost estimates and will describe a recommended internal structure for NIE including alternative policies for personnel, program management, and external relations.

Establish by November 1, 1971, an organization within the Office of Education which will exert leadership in innovation by providing developmental assistance to educational organizations and focusing discretionary funding authority on the reform of education. The National Education Renewal Centers are designed to improve and reform educational systems and institutions through substantially accelerating the installation and use of promising innovations (products, practices, processes), including the products of research and development.

Agency Research Objectives for FY 1972

Office of Child Development
Research Objectives for FY 1972

1. Day Care - Development of models of day care with emphasis upon child development.

2. Advocacy - Demonstrations of alternative mechanisms for child advocacy at the local level.

3. Racism - Study and develop early childhood intervention programs that deal directly with racism. Develop and utilize the talents, skills and experience of ethnic investigators; develop programs with black colleges and ethnic operated research groups to familiarize and assist them in engaging in OCD R&E programs.

4. Parent Education - Study of child development and child care by teenagers combined with meaningful cross-age relationships; special comprehensive programs for pregnant school age girls; demonstration parent education programs for mothers in a variety of settings, including the home and public pediatric clinics.

5. Father Absence - Demonstrations to provide a male identity for fatherless homes; comparison of effectiveness of volunteers, older adolescents, young adults, college students, and retirees in providing children with male identity and role.

6. Socioeconomic Mix - Demonstration of preschool programs that include children from all social and economic groups rather than just poverty groups.

7. Television - Research on the impact of television on the infant, preschool child and family, and comparison of the effectiveness of various technological developments, curriculum variations, and scheduling.

8. Children's Institutions - Demonstration of methods to bring about change in the institutional care of children.

9. Adoption - Demonstration to increase the availability of homes for children who are hard-to-place due to conditions of physical or mental handicap, age, ethnic identity, or institutional residence.

10. Emergency Services - Demonstration of viable alternatives for the child faced with a traumatic home situation, process of removal from the home, and agency coordination to assist in this process.

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Research Objectives for FY 1972 and Beyond

1. Study cognitive development as it is affected by environmental impact.

2. Study the processes of language acquisition and develop tests of language proficiency.

3. Multidisciplinary investigation of nutritional status and methodological improvements for better differentiation, classification and quantification of nutritional status.

4. Stress a holistic approach to immunology with particular emphasis on the capabilities and deficiencies in human defenses unique to specific age periods during early childhood.

5. Develop new personality measurement approaches and study related psychometric problems, with considerable emphasis on longitudinal studies.

6. Study biological mechanisims controlling growth, normal and abnormal growth patterns, and the effects of enviornmental factors.

7. Study effects of early experiences on brain and behavioral development.

8. Study the neurochemical, neuroendricrine and neuroelectrophysiological consequences of insults during the formative periods of development.

9. Study the neurobiological correlates of psychological functioning.

10. Study the critical periods and modes of interaction of varied child-rearing and stimulation methods for mentally handicapped children.

11. In the perinatal biology and infant mortality areas, study the following:

    . Drug addiction in pregnancy
    . Prematurity and the initiation of labor
    . Maternal-fetal nutrition and intrauterine growth
    . Genomic regulation of developmental proteins
    . Cellular interactions during embryogenesis
    . Developmental genetics
    . Enviornmental factors in development
    . Assessment of fetal status and maturation during gestation
    . Assessment of fetal status during labor
    . Extrauterine adaptation and neonatal respiratory distress
    . Scientific basis of neonatal intensive care
    . Perinatal nosocomial environment
    . Sudden infant death syndrome
    . Training programs in developmental and perinatal biology

National Institute of Mental Health
Research Objectives for FY 1972 and Beyond

General Goals

1. Foster the mental health of children by the improvement of early child care and education.

2. Increase the emphasis on family-centered approaches to prevention and remediation of emotional disorders and learning and behavior problems.

3. Increase the effectiveness of the community in providing comprehensive services to children.

4. Investigate the development of competence and independence in children.

5. Improve research methodology and assessment techniques.

6. Train high school and college youth to work with young children, and retrain teachers.

As a result of an intensive analysis of NIMH research, the following major research objectives have been specified for FY 1972 and beyond:

1. Develop and implement during FY 1972 a plan for analyzing the findings of completed basic and applied research on the child with the following goals:

   (a) Identification of child variables that might be criteria of the effectiveness of child care and education programs in fostering the optimal development of the child.

   (b) Identification of important areas for future basic research on the conceptualization, measurement, and investigation of child variables that are relevant to social adjustment and social competence.

2. Develop and implement a plan for analyzing and synthesizing the findings on basic and applied research on the family with a goal of developing recommendations for:

   (a) More specific, detailed and comprehensive research on the total network of family relationships that influence child development--husband-wife, father and mother-child, and sibling relationships.

   (b) A program of action research on family care and education of children.

3. Take leadership in developing a program of basic research on the community and on the professions and institutions that relate to families and children.

4. Develop a program of research on the interrelationships of consumers of child care and education services (children, families, and communities) and the professions and institutions that provide such services.

5. Develop a program of action research on innovative methods for developing community, professional and institutional support for family care and education of children and for developing family, community and professional/institutional collaboration in fostering child development.

The above recommendations are congruent with, but somewhat more specific that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Child Mental Health.

Maternal and Child Health Services
Research Objectives for FY 1972 and Beyond

The research program began by focusing on the study of ways of intervening in health situations, and the way these methods of intervention, coupled with use of basic knowledge, could be infused into new forms of health delivery systems.

One result was an ordering of the priorities in research based upon an orientation of the future. It was recognized that the research effort needed lead time--a minimum of 3 to 5 years--to impact upon a specific felt need. Problems were therefore identified which were not yet widely recognized, but which, within a period of 5 years, would be significant. Here are the priorities established for the research program:

1. Health delivery systems for mothers
2. Health delivery systems for children
3. The special needs of the pregnant adolescent girl
4. The nutritional status of children in this country
5. The health issues in group care facilities for very young children
6. The utilization of paraprofessional health personnel
7. The development of family planning as a component part of comprehensive maternal health services
8. Evolvement of methodology and strategy for evaluation of health programs

In the field of crippled children's services, there was no articulated series of problems that could receive the sense of intensity and direction that was programmed for maternal and child health. The major concern primarily has been with the effects upon the child and the family of a handicapping condition and the discontinuity in the provision of services to individual crippled children.

In addition, the research program provides support for prosthetics and orthotics development related to crippled children. Although much of this is primarily of a bio-engineering nature, no other Federal agency is authorized to engage in such research. Because of its technical and specialized nature, a contract was made with the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Prosthetics and Orthotics Research and Development to review and monitor all grants in this area.

Social and Rehabilitation Service
Research Objectives for FY 1972

For all children and particularly for poor children, the SRS research program is aimed at:

1. Promoting better foster care
2. Making adoption procedures more effective
3. Improving protective services for neglected and abused children
4. Improving children's health through better nutrition

Research Utilization

SRS plans to emphasize research utilization of which the major intent is to link research to planning, policymaking, program administration, and service practice. The objectives of research utilization are as follows:

1. To plan, review, and conduct research in a manner that will maximize likelihood of effective results being produced and used.
2. To improve reporting and dissemination of R&D results with intent to make these two phases contribute as much as possible toward actual utilization.
3. To evaluate (1) prior R&D work, especially the 500 or more projects funded in SRS service agencies, and (2) validity and usefulness of findings from a broader sample of R&D reports.
4. To evaluate SRS RU activities already underway, especially the nine RUS projects and the R&D Briefs.
5. To learn more about typical R&D-based innovations in SRS service agencies, as an indispensable aid to improving the dissemination and increasing the use of research results.
6. Expansion of proven RU activities in SRS service agencies.
7. To plan for an SRS-wide RU system that will be sound, realistic, effective, and adequate.

National Center for Educational Research and Development
Research Objectives for FY 1972 and Beyond

Two of the FY 1972 research objectives of NCERD are related to the Office of Education agency objectives - 1) career development and 2) innovation. These objectives are described in the agency goals section.

Additional research priorities and objectives are part of the multi-year research programs of the educational laboratories and the research and development centers, whose long range missions are described elsewhere. The National Program on Early Childhood Education is focusing on the development of models for comprehensive child care from the infant to the elementary school level.

Plans for the National Institute of Education (which is expected to be authorized by April or May is described in the agency objectives section) state three main areas of focus for the new organization: 1) improved quality of education, 2) improved equality of education, and 3) educational financing. All of the research activities of OE are expected to be transferred to the NIE. An NIE planning document which will include priority setting will be issued January, 1972. Plans from research groups for major research programs which will fit into the NIE structure are due April, 1972.

Bureau for the Education of the Handicapped
Research Objectives for FY 1972

1. Secure the participation of 100,000 preschool handicapped children in early education and day care programs.

2. Expand the model demonstration program of the Early Education Assistance Act by adding 65 preschool projects.

3. Assist State education agencies in the development of State funded preschool programs through leadership training institutes and technical assistance.

4. Fund 20 teacher training projects to provide a supply of teachers to work with preschool handicapped children.

5. Develop a format for television instruction for young handicapped children.

Office of Economic Opportunity
Research Objectives for FY 1972

1. Examine policy issues arising from the day care provisions of the Welfare Reform proposals including:

   - assessing the effects of different kinds of child care situations on child behavior development

   - determining the dimensions of demand for day care of difficult types

2. Assess the impact of housing location on child development

3. Evaluate the feasibility of expanding the channels of choice available to parents in day care through the voucher system.

4. Study research methodology which will permit criterion-based program evaluation.

5. Continue four parent and child development centers.

6. Continue four major day care demonstration programs

Priority Areas for Early Childhood Research
As Designated by the Interagency Panel in the Report
Toward Interagency Coordination

The Developmental Process

- Cognitive Ability
- Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

Effect of Primary Environmental Influences

- Physical Setting
- Family
- School
- Peers

Effects of Community and Broader Social Programs

- Child Advocacy Programs
- Child Care
  - Preschool Education Programs
  - Day Care
  - Health Care
- Compensatory Education
- Educational Television
- Individualized Instruction
- Income Maintenance
- Employment
- Housing

The Global Approach and Combined and Comparative Effects

- Whole Child
- Total Life Space
- Comprehensive programs or setting (primary environment)
- Combined effects of social programs

Research to Benefit All Children

- Children of different socio-economic level, cultural background, ethnicity, age
- Low-income children
- Average-income children
- Handicapped children (intellectually, racially, emotionally, physically handicapped)
- Gifted children

Research on Methodology

- Measures of cause-effect relationships between specific inputs or variables and specific behavior or development outcomes
- Behavioral observation techniques
- Longitudinal research methodology
- Output measures for inter-disciplinary studies
- Output measures for cross-cultural studies
- Measures for infants and young children

Study of Research Planning

- Development of a classification system for early childhood research
- Planning of goals for early childhood research
- Research on national goals for child development
- Research to determine social needs
- Social policy studies

Study of utilization of research results, i.e., effective methods of disseminating research to the following users:

- Policy makers
- Program planners
- Other researchers (Federal and non-Federal)
- Child-oriented practitioners and institutions (health personnel, social workers, teachers, training institutions, etc.)
- Parents